

REMARKS

The present Amendment and Response is intended to be fully responsive to all points of objections and/or rejections raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Applicant asserts that the present invention is new, non-obvious and useful. Prompt and favorable reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-13 are currently pending.

Claims 1 and 5 have been amended. Claim 14 has been cancelled.

Remarks to Claim Rejections

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §112

The October 5, 2007 Office Action rejected claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with written description requirement. In particular, the Office Action alleges that the present disclosure failed to provide support for forming a land (claim 1, line 6) before adjusting a thickness of the plating layer, and failed to provide support for performing claims 3-4 after the step of forming areas of the metal foils, not covered by the plating layer, into lines.

In order to expedite prosecution of the present application, without conceding any appropriateness of rejections of claims 1-4, Applicants have voluntarily amended claim 1 to further clarify that the area covered by the plating layer is “being designated for forming a land”, as was previously implied in claim 1 by reciting “forming a land”. In view of the above amendment, the Office Action’s rejection of claim 1 is now moot.

With regard to rejections of claims 3-4, Applicants respectfully submit that support for performing claims 3-4 may be found in FIG. 11 and FIG. 12, for example, and related description in the specification of record (para.62-65). On the other hand, Applicants are having difficulty understanding, and were not able to find support for, the

Office Action's allegation that performing claims 3-4 is after the step of forming areas of the metal foils, not covered by the plating layer, into lines which is recited in claim 1.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-13 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. In particular, the Office Action alleges that claims 1-4 are incomplete and miss essential steps, and claims 1-13 are ambiguous.

Applicants respectfully disagree.

Applicants assert that claims 1-13 in their present form distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. MPEP 2172.01 states that a claim may be rejected, under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, if the claim omits essential matter including missing elements, steps described by the Applicants as necessary to practice the invention. By the way the Office Action rejected claims 1-13, it appears to Applicants that these rejections are made under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph instead of second paragraph. Nevertheless, the Office Action has failed to provide valid argument and/or establish *prima facie* evidence as to why the various steps (cited and alleged by the Office Action as missing) are essential to the present invention. The Office Action has also failed to point out specifically where in the specification Applicants have described these steps as necessary to practice the present invention.

The Office Action also rejected claim 5 alleging that "said metal foil" and "the exposed metal foil" in claim 5, lines 6-8, lack positive antecedent basis. Applicants have amended claim 5 to address these rejections. In view of this amendment, the Office Action's rejection of claim 5 is now moot.

In view of above, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner's rejections of claims 1-13 under 35 U.S.C. §112 be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the preceding remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested.

No fees are believed to be due in connection with this paper. However, if there is any such fee due, please charge any such fee to deposit account No. 09-0458.

Respectfully submitted,

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